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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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18a Explanatory Notes

- curry sicken . . . *n* . . . chiefly Scot
 lar-ri-kia . . . *n* . . . chiefly Austral
 lo-da-be . . . *n* . . . chiefly SAAfr
 spal-pea . . . *n* . . . chiefly Irish
 'bon-net . . . *n* . . . 2 s:Br
 book off *v* . . . *Canad*
 dia-kum . . . *adj* . . . Austral & NewZeal
 gar-wid . . . *adj* . . . Scot & Irish

The label *dial* for "dialect" indicates that the pattern of use of a word or sense is too complex for summary labeling; it usually includes several regional varieties of American English or of American and British English:

- cal-a-boose . . . *n* . . . *dial*

The label *dial Brit* indicates currency in several dialects of the Commonwealth; *dial Eng* indicates currency in one or more provincial dialects of England:

- boyle . . . *n* . . . *dial Brit*
 hob . . . *n* . . . 1 *dial Eng*

The stylistic label *slang* is used with words of senses that are especially appropriate in contexts of extreme informality, that usually have a currency not limited to a particular region or area of interest, and that are composed typically of shortened or altered forms or extravagant or facetious figures of speech:

- 'burb *n* . . . *slang* : masturbate
 'sahmy *n* . . . *slang* : inside information : dope

- main squeeze *n* . . . *slang* : one's principal romantic partner

There is no satisfactory objective test for slang, especially with reference to a word out of context. No word, in fact, is invariably slang, and many standard words can be given slang applications:

The stylistic label *nonstand* for "nonstandard" is used for a few words or senses that are disapproved by many but that have some currency in reputable contexts:

- leara . . . *vb* . . . 2 a *nonstand*
 Ir-regard-less . . . *adv* . . . *nonstand*

The stylistic label *substand* for "substandard" is used for those words or senses that conform to a widespread pattern of usage that differs in choice of word or form from that of the prestige group of the community:

- is . . . *pres 3d sing of be, dial pres 1st & 2nd sing of BE, substand pres pl of be*

A subject label or guide phrase is sometimes used to indicate the specific application of a word or sense:

- knockabout . . . *adj* . . . 3 of a sailing vessel
 'break *n* . . . 3 : d mining
 'up *adj* . . . 3 of a quark

In general, however, subject orientation is given in the definition:

- Di-do . . . *n* . . . a legendary queen of Carthage in Virgil's *Aeneid* who kills herself when Aeneas leaves her
 le-le . . . *n* . . . a springing jump in ballet made from one foot to the other in any direction

ILLUSTRATIONS OF USAGE

Definitions are sometimes followed by verbal illustrations that show a typical use of the word in context. These illustrations are enclosed in angle brackets, and the word being illustrated is usually replaced by a lightface swung dash. The swung dash stands for the boldface entry word, and it may be followed by an italicized suffix:

- 'key . . . *n* . . . 3 a . . . <the ~ to a riddle>
 'nary . . . *adj* . . . <~ a person wanted to go>
 'plummet *v* . . . 2 . . . <prices ~ed>
 'weak . . . *adj* . . . 4 . . . (2) . . . <history was my ~ ex-sub-ject>

The swung dash is not used when the form of the boldface entry word is changed in suffixation, and it is not used for open compounds:

- 'true . . . *adj* . . . 8 . . . <in the ~west sense>
 'turn-off *v* . . . <turn the ~water off>

Illustrative quotations are also used to show words in typical contexts:

- 'con-flict-ed . . . *adj* . . . <this unhappy and ~ modern woman—John Updike>

Omissions in quotations are indicated by suspension points:

- 'alien-ation . . . *n* . . . <~ from the values of one's society and family—S.L. Halsey>

USAGE NOTES

Definitions are sometimes followed by usage notes that give supplementary information about such matters as idiom, syntax, semantic relationship, and status. A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash:

- 'ery . . . *n* . . . 11 . . . — used in the phrase *a for cry*
 'forum . . . *n* . . . 2 . . . — use *lect* with *our*
 'so . . . *adv* . . . 3 a . . . — often used as a substitute for a preceding clause
 'ster-zan-do . . . *adj* or *adv* . . . — used as a direction in music
 'grin-go . . . *n* . . . — often used disparagingly
 'plased . . . *adj* . . . 1 . . . — sometimes considered vulgar
 'hajji . . . *n* . . . — often used as a title

Two or more usage notes are separated by a semicolon:

- 'what pron . . . that which belongs to thee — used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *thy*; used esp. in ecclesiastical or literary language and still surviving in the speech of Friends, esp. among themselves

Sometimes a usage note calls attention to one or more terms with the same denotation as the main entry:

- 'water moccasin . . . 1 : a venomous semiaquatic pit viper (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) chiefly of the southeastern U.S. that is closely related to the copperhead — called also *cottonmouth*, *cottonmouth moccasin*

The called-also terms are shown in italic type. If such a term falls alphabetically more than a column away from the main entry, it is entered at its own place with the sole definition being a synonymous cross-reference to the entry where it appears in the usage note:

- 'cotton-mouth . . . *n* . . . 2 WATER MOCCASIN
 'cottonmouth moccasin *n* . . . 1 WATER MOCCASIN

Sometimes a usage note is used in place of a definition. Some function words (as conjunctions and prepositions) have

TOR] (13c) 1: the betrayal of a trust; TREACHERY. 2: the offense of tempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereignty's family.
treasonable \ˈtri-zən-ə-bəl, ˈtri-zən-ə-bəl adj (14c) relating to, consisting of, or involving treason
treasonably \ˈtri-zən-ə-bəl adv (1933)
treasonable \ˈtri-zən-ə-bəl adj (1893) TREASONABLE
1 worthy of being treasured
treasure \ˈtroʒər, ˈtri-zən [ME *thesor*, fr. OF *thesaur*, fr. *thesaurus*] (12c) 1: a (1): wealth as money, jewels, or precious metals stored up or hoarded (buried ~). (2): wealth of any kind or in any form; RICHES b: a store of money in reserve. 2: something of great value or value also c: a person esteemed as rare or precious. 3: a collection of precious things
treasure v \ˈtroʒ-ər, ˈtri-zən-ər (14c) 1: to collect and store up (something of value) for future use; HOARD. 2: to hold or keep as precious; CHERISH. PRIZE (we treasure those memories).
SYN SEE APPRECIATE
treasure-house \ˈtroʒ-er-haʊs, ˈtri-zən-er-haʊs n (15c) 1: a building where treasure is kept; TREASURY. 2: a place or source (as a collection) where many things of value can be found
treasurer \ˈtrez-ər-ər, ˈtri-zər-ər, ˈtri-zh-, ˈtri-zh- n (14c) 1: a guardian of a collection of treasures. 2: CURATOR. 3: an officer entrusted with the receipt, care, and disbursement of funds as: a governmental officer charged with receiving, keeping, and disbursing public revenues b: the executive financial officer of a club, society, or business corporation
treasure trove \ˈtri-zv-, ˈtri-zv- n [AF *tresor*, fr. *trésor*] (1523) 1: treasure that anyone finds; spoils; loot. 2: treasure in the form of money, plate, or bullion which is found hidden and whose ownership is not known. 3: a valuable discovery, resource, or collection
treasury \ˈtre-zh-(s), ˈtri-z-, ˈtri-z- n [ME *thesori*, fr. OF *thesaur*, fr. *thesaurus*] (14c) 1: a place in which stores of wealth are kept b: the place where deposits and disbursements of collected funds; esp: one kept in such a depository are deposited, kept, and disbursed c: funds department in charge of finances and cap. the collection, management, and expenditure of public revenues d: the building in which the business of such a governmental department is transacted e: cap: a governmental security (as a note or bill) issued by the Treasury. 3: representative for treasures (as ~ of poems)
treasury note n (1890) 1: a currency note issued by the U.S. Treasury in payment for silver bullion purchased under the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890. 2: a U.S. government bond iss. with a maturity of not less than one year or more than seven years
treasury of merits (1894) the superabundant satisfaction of Christ for human sins and the excess of merits of the saints which according to Roman Catholic theology is effective for the salvation of others and is available for dispensation through indulgences
treasury stock n (1903) issued stock reacquired by a corporation and held as an asset
treasure hunt [ME *trezen*, fr. OF *traffier*; fr. *tracare* to drag about, handle; deal w/ *treasure* to *treasure* to drag, pull] v (14c) 1: to discuss terms of accommodation; to overindulge; NEGOTIATE. 2: to deal with a matter esp. in writing; NEGOTIATE. 3: to pay another. 4: used with *with* (of a book -ing of conservation). 5: to pay another. 6: used with *with* (of a meal or drink) esp. as a compliment or as an expression of regard or friendship. 7: to deal with in speech or writing. 8: to present or represent artistically. 9: to deal with; HANDLE. 10: to present or deal with imagination. Cecil Beaton. 2: a: to bear oneself toward. manner. 3: to deal with as: 3: a: to provide with food, drink, etc.; to care for or deal with medically or surgically (~ a disease). 5: to act upon with some agent esp. to improve or alter (~ a field with acid). 6: to treat. n
treat n (1651) 1: an entertainment given without expense to those invited. 2: an exp: unexpected source of joy, delight, or amusement
treatable \ˈtri-tə-bəl adj (14c) capable of being treated; yielding or responsive to treatment (a ~ disease). ~ treatability \ˈtri-tə-bil-i-ti (1878)
treatise \ˈtri-tis-iz also -iz n [ME *tract*, fr. AF *tract*, fr. OF *tractus* to treat] (14c) 1: a systematic exposition or argument in writing including a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached (a ~ on higher education). 2: a tract. 3: ACCOUNT, TALKS
treatment \ˈtri-mənt n (ca. 1560) 1: the way or manner or an technique or actions customarily applied in a specific situation. 2: a action
treaty \ˈtri-ti n [ME *tractat*, fr. MF *tracté*, fr. ML *tractatus*, fr. L, bonding, agreement, fr. *tractare* to treat, handle] (14c) 1: the action of treating or agreement; (negotiating). 2: an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation. (1): PRIVATE TREATY. 2: a contract in writing between two or more political authorities (as states or sovereigns) formally signed by representatives duly authorized and usu. ratified by the lawmaking authority of the state. 3: a document in treaty such a contract is set down
China, Japan, and Korea formerly open by treaty to foreign commerce
treble \ˈtri-bl, ˈtri-bl n [ME, perh. fr. MF, *trio*; fr. *treble*, ad.] (14c) 1: a performs a treble part also a member of a family of instruments having the highest range. 2: a high pitched or shrill voice, tone, or sound d: the upper half of the whole vocal or instrumental tonal range. 5: compare BASS e: the higher portion of the audio frequency range in sound recording and broadcasting. 2: something treble-in construction
treble also ME, fr. MF, fr. L *triplex* — more at TRIPLE] (14c) 1: a having three parts or uses; THRESHOLD. 2: triple in number or amount. 3: a: relating to or having the range or part of a treble. b: HIGH-PITCHED, SHRILL. c: of, relating to, or having the range of treble

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